

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-17.

18. A device for temporarily filtering bodily fluid, the device comprising:

an elongate flexible guidewire having a proximal end and distal region having a flexible tubular element fixed there about;

a generally tubular, self-expanding filter mounted coaxially about the guidewire, the filter having distal and proximal tapered ends slidably disposed about the guidewire, wherein relative longitudinal movement between the distal and proximal ends of the filter accompanies a transformation of the filter between a closed configuration and an open configuration;

a stop element fixed to the guidewire distal region, the stop element being disposed between and limiting longitudinal movement of the distal and proximal ends of the filter;

an actuator fixed to the proximal end of the filter, the actuator forming an annular space around the guidewire and being slidably disposed there along;

an elongate hollow rod having a lumen and a distal end releasably engageable with the actuator, the hollow rod being slidably disposed about the guidewire and being operable, when the distal end of the rod is engaged with the actuator, to draw the proximal end of the filter in a proximal direction; and

a mechanism for damping the relative longitudinal movement between the distal and proximal ends of the filter.

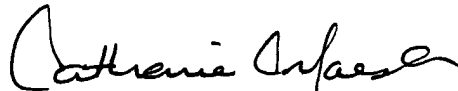
19. The device of claim 18 wherein the annular space is capable of containing a volume of bodily fluid to effectuate the mechanism for damping.

20. The device of claim 18 wherein the mechanism for damping comprises a viscous material being applied to the actuator and/or the guidewire to at least partially fill the annular space there between.

21. The device of claim 18 wherein the mechanism for damping comprises a distal opening of the actuator being funnel-shaped such that distal movement of the actuator through bodily fluid collects and forces the fluid into the annular space.

22. The device of claim 18 wherein the mechanism for damping further comprises the actuator and the distal end of the hollow rod being designed and arranged such that the releasable engagement there between is effectuated by applying a partial vacuum through the lumen of the hollow rod, whereby controllably releasing the partial vacuum slowly disengages the distal end of the hollow rod from the tubular actuator.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine C. Maresh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "M".

Catherine C. Maresh
Registration No. 35,268
Attorney for Applicants
Medtronic AVE, Inc.
3576 Unocal Place
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Telephone No.: (707) 543-0221